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POLAND: Regime Reaction

Warsaw's guarded response to Solidarity's platform suggests party moderates will try to maintain their policy of negotiating with the union at next week's Central Committee session. [redacted]

A commentary in the party newspaper *Trybuna Ludu* criticized the program as excessively broad, but seemed to dismiss some of its political points as rhetoric. It claimed that Poles would reject "empty slogans" while implementing "constructive" solutions. [redacted]

By quoting with approval Walesa's assertion he would disassociate himself from groups engaged in "obvious politicking," the commentary reinforced regime efforts to portray intellectuals and union advisers--the presumed authors of the political planks of the Solidarity platform--as not being in the union's mainstream. [redacted]

Some party members want to restrict future government-union negotiations to strictly economic issues. Others propose diluting the union's impact by establishing a consultation process in which the major interest groups--including the Church, the other existing "parties" and the veterans organizations--would also participate. The Central Committee may also be asked to tighten party discipline by forcing members to choose between membership in Solidarity and the party, a move that would lead to a drastic decline in party membership. [redacted]

Moscow appears still to be digesting the results of the Solidarity congress, and is perhaps awaiting next week's Polish party plenum before voicing any authoritative judgment. TASS has not repeated its initial charge that the program adopted by the congress was "counter-revolutionary," and yesterday again confined itself to repeating criticism of Solidarity made by Polish publications. It quoted a Polish weekly that claimed both "moderates" and "radicals" in Solidarity aim to seize power and that blamed the union's boldness on the "weakness, errors, and inconsistency" of Polish authorities. [redacted]

Defector's Report of Soviet Views

A Soviet defector--a diplomat--reports that Soviet Party Secretary Rusakov, discussing problems the USSR faces in Poland, noted in July that Moscow must deal with the questions of nationalism, "consumerism," and

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Approved for Release
Date [redacted]

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resentment over the arrogance of Soviet officials throughout Eastern Europe. These issues, he said, were complicated in Poland by the Catholic Church, ideological liberalism, and private agriculture. [redacted]

The defector portrayed Poland's past and present leaders as resisting Soviet counsel and said that without Soviet economic aid Poland would be on the road to "Christian--or social--democracy." He suggested that Moscow will have to live with the crisis for a long time to come. [redacted]

Rusakov's remarks, to an audience of Soviet officials, seem designed to elicit support for patient handling of the situation. His stress on the importance of Soviet economic aid underscores the risks Moscow believes it would face if it tried to put pressure on Warsaw by withholding such assistance. [redacted]

[redacted]